

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 5 • NOVEMBER 2025

# APSS NEWSLETTER

THE LATEST NEWS & UPDATES FROM GVSU'S APSS UNION & ITS MEMBERS

photo by Annie Valkema (taken from 9<sup>th</sup> floor Eberhard Center)

## ISSUE FEATURES

### PHOTOS FROM THE FALL 2025 APSS FALL LUNCHEON

Check out the photos from the 2025 Fall APSS Luncheon!  
*more on page 2*

### HOLIDAY TIME ENTRY – THANKSGIVING BREAK

information on how to enter your time for the upcoming campus closure and holiday break.  
*more on page 4*

### WEAR THE RAINBOW CLOTHING DRIVE

Check your closets for items to donate to the Wear the Rainbow Clothing Drive, which will be held on November 15.  
*more on page 5*

### HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrating a first birthday, recommendations, campus beauty photos, and Halloween!  
*starting on page 9*

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# UNION NEWS



We would like to thank you for taking the time to vote amendment to the Bylaws on the wage increase for the Alliance President, and Chief Alliance Steward. Those roles have been critical in working on many areas of need for our members. Thank you for recognizing the amount of time and the impact that these two offices continue to devote to the APSS Union.

We would like to report that 2/3rds of our membership voted. Of that group 96% supported the increase for these two crucial roles in the Union.

Michelle Holstege, APSS Secretary and Election Chair

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you so much for joining us at the APSS Fall Luncheon! We look forward to seeing you next year. We hope you enjoyed the presentation from the Career Center and can utilize the recommendations for any internal job opportunities at GVSU, along with sharing these tips with your student staff as they move on to their next stage in life!

Rayshena Wilson, APSS Membership Director



[Enjoy more photos from the Fall 2025 APSS Luncheon here!](#)



# LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

## UNDERSTANDING TRAUMA AND PROMOTING WELLNESS

BY INCLUSION & EQUITY INSTITUTE

**Tuesday, November 18, 3P-5P**  
**Kirkhof Center #2266 (Valley)**

This training has three components. Part 1 covers the biological mechanisms by which experiences and trauma affect human development. Part 2 introduces the concept of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and provides data about the frequency of ACEs and the later health outcomes associated with exposure to childhood trauma. Part 3 introduces evidence-based perspectives on promoting human well-being and includes examples of personal, relational and community-level interventions to support positive outcomes for all people. This workshop will end with a quick discussion about applying these concepts to our GVSU community.

[RSVP Here.](#)



## KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR INTERFAITH DINNER - LOSS / GRIEF

BY KAUFMAN INTERFAITH INSTITUTE

**Monday, November 24, 6-7:30P**

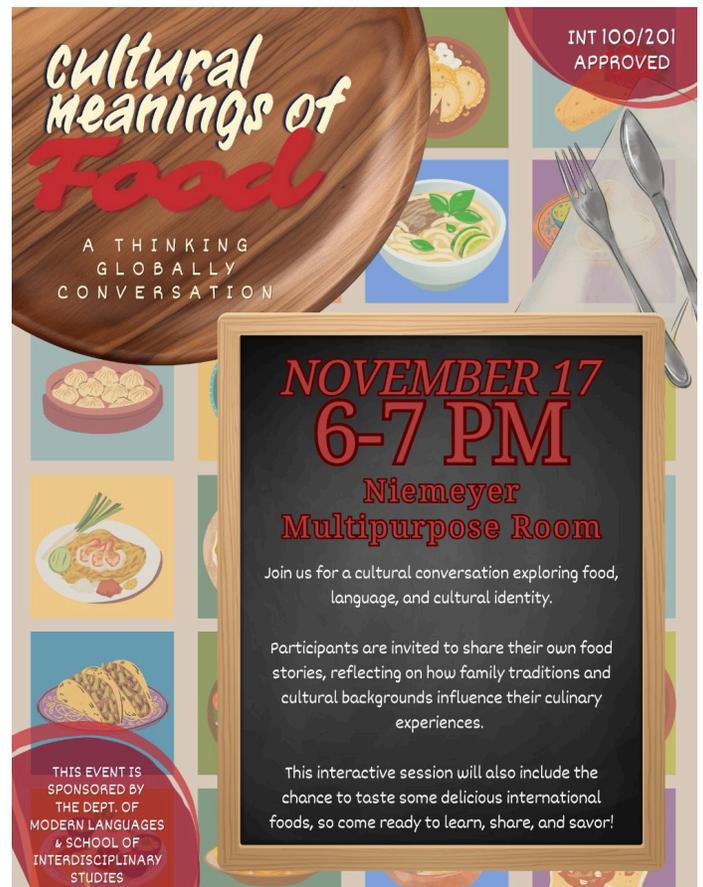
Get to know your fellow Lakers from across different religious, secular, and spiritual identities and traditions over a free dinner and intentional, lightly-facilitated conversation.

[RSVP for this event](#)

## THINKING GLOBALLY: CULTURAL MEANINGS OF FOOD

**Monday, November 17, 6p-7p**  
**Niemeyer Multipurpose Room (Valley)**

Join us for a cultural conversation exploring food, language, and cultural identity. We'll dive into the cultural history behind various international dishes, discovering how culture, language, and history shape the foods we eat. Participants are invited to share their own food stories, reflecting on how family traditions and cultural backgrounds influence their culinary experiences. This interactive session will also include the chance to taste some delicious international foods, so come ready to learn, share, and savor! [More Information.](#)





# BENEFITS & WELLNESS



## HOLIDAY TIME ENTRY – THANKSGIVING BREAK

The following codes should be used to enter holiday time for the Thanksgiving recess for *most* PSS staff:

- Wednesday, November 26 - Use Time Type **“Holiday Break”**
- Thursday, November 27 & Friday November 28 - use Time Type **“Holiday”**

If you are **full time staff**, enter 8 hours for each day.

If you are **part time staff**, enter 4 hours for each day - per the APSS contract, “When a holiday is on a day a part-time staff member is normally scheduled to work more than four hours, they must make up the difference in hours for that day by either adjusting their schedule within the same week, using vacation, or using lost time. The staff member and manager will work together to adjust for the holiday to not exceed their normal scheduled hours for the week.”

If you are required to work a shift on the campus closure date (November 26) or the holiday/observed holiday (November 27 & 28), enter your time worked as regular time.

If you have any specific questions, please consult with your manager and/or building representative.

## HOLIDAY CAMPUS CLOSURE DATES: 2026/2027 BY PAYROLL

The Holiday & Campus Closure dates have been released for 2026 and 2027. They are available on [Payroll’s website](#).

APSS calendars will be coming soon with these dates!

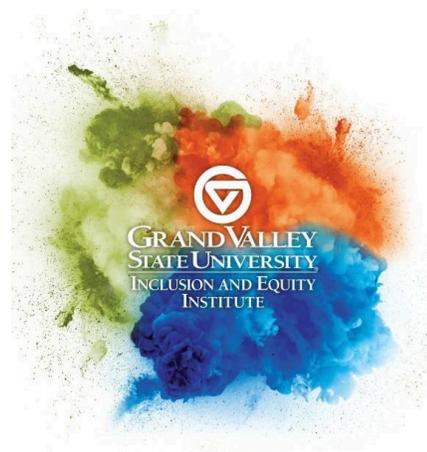
## CREATIVE WELLNESS: MINDFUL MAKING BY INCLUSION & EQUITY INSTITUTE

**When:** Monday, November 17, 2025, 12-1:30 PM  
**Where:** Kirkhof Center, Room 2201 (Valley)

Each Mindful Making session will explore a different creative technique for supporting personal and community well-being through creativity and creative practice. Each session will be different, so sign up for as many as you like! No prior experience required and all materials will be provided. Just bring yourself and a willingness to experiment and explore without judgment.

November’s session is wood burning.

[RSVP for this event](#)





# CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

## TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION UPDATES/REMINDERS BY TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION

### Reminder on the Update to Expense Report Business Process

As of June 2025, Technology Acquisition is part of the expense report process. Certain items may trigger review and approval by Technology Acquisition. Please review the [Technology Acquisition Policy](#) before making purchases and obtain any required approvals in advance. Attach these approvals with your receipts when submitting your expense report. Technology Acquisition may return reports for more information, deny unapproved items, or request repayment to the University. This review occurs after normal budget approvals and may cause delays if documentation is missing. Be sure to monitor your Expense Hub for notes or instructions provided in the send-back comments.

### Technology Acquisition FAQ: Has my Order been Placed?

Technology Acquisition frequently receives the question "Has my order been placed?" Once Technology Acquisition reviews and approves the ISD for processing, users will receive an email from Workday (example pictured to the right).

At any point in the process, users can check the ISD process history right in Workday. Type your ISD# in the search bar or use the [Find Internal Service Deliveries](#) report. Click on Process History next to Lines on the ISD. There, you will see ISD creation and cost center approvals. Scroll down to the 'New ISD' step. If it says 'Approved,' your order was received and placed by Technology Acquisition on the date and time shown in the 'Completed On' column.

The ISD will stay 'In Progress' until the final stage, 'Approve for Department Billing.' Billing approval will occur once all items have been received and transferred to IT Services for delivery.

**WEAR THE RAINBOW Clothing Drive**

Donate your gently used clothing for our gender-affirming free clothing pop-up shop event on Nov. 15, 1-4pm.

**Drop-Off Locations:**  
GVSU CWGE (1201 KC)  
Grand Rapids Pride Center  
City Campus Career Center (101B Devos)

**Accepted through:**  
Wednesday, November 12

**Special Requests:**  
Feminine clothing, large sizes. Shoes too!  
Unused/unopened cosmetics  
Accessories

LGBTCENTER@GVSU.EDU GVSU PRIDE CENTER GO TRANS FOUNDATION GVSU.EDU/LGBTRC



Please note: This is an automated email generated by Workday at GVSU. Replies to this email are not actively monitored.

Technology Acquisition has received your internal service delivery, and the order is being processed by the team. The ISD will stay listed as "In Progress" until the final stage, "Approve for Department Billing". Billing approval occurs once all items in your order are transferred to IT Services for delivery. IT Services will then reach out to the recipient via email from the GVSU Service Portal with delivery/setup questions and to coordinate a time for delivery.

To view the status of your ISD in Workday, click the link below or use the "Find Internal Service Deliveries" report.

[View Details](#)



# CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

## GVSU UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

As we prepare to launch this year's United Way Campaign, we invite you to help us make a meaningful difference right here in our community.

At Grand Valley, we believe wellness extends beyond physical health it's about caring for the mind, body, finances, and community we share. This holistic view of well-being connects directly to our GVSU core competencies: empowering others, fostering an inclusive and equitable community, acting with integrity, collaborating effectively, demonstrating emotional intelligence, and leading with an innovator mindset.

By assisting with communicating our campaign messages, you'll help bring these values to life.

- Promoting the campaign and sharing key messages across your area,
- Encouraging participation through giving and volunteer opportunities, and
- Inspiring others by connecting our collective efforts to real community impact.

When you give or volunteer through United Way, you're not just supporting local families and programs, you're also strengthening your own sense of purpose, belonging, and wellness:

- **Physical Well-Being:** Volunteer in active events like park clean-ups or 5K charity runs—boost your health while helping others.
- **Emotional Well-Being:** Acts of giving reduce stress and increase life satisfaction. Helping others helps us, too.
- **Financial Well-Being:** Giving through payroll deduction allows you to plan charitable contributions as part of your financial wellness goals.
- **Social & Community Well-Being:** Each pledge strengthens the network of care that connects Lakers with purpose and people in need.

Get Involved:

- Learn more about United Way's local impact.
- Make your pledge once you receive the pledge email from United Way

Together, we can build a thriving, equitable, and resilient community for all living out our Laker values through service, generosity, and connection.

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to the well-being of our campus and community.





# CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS



**HOLIDAY GATHERING**

*President Philomena V. Mantella  
Grand Valley State University*

*Invites you to join the campus community  
as we celebrate the holiday season*

**TUESDAY,  
DECEMBER 2, 2025**

**RUSSEL H. KIRKHOF CENTER  
GRAND RIVER ROOM**  
Valley Campus  
3:30-5 p.m.

*Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon with festive food and desserts  
among friends and colleagues.*

Check your email for an invitation and RSVP information!

## WORKDAY FINANCE UPDATES

BY BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Accounts Payable is seeing varying support being provided on Supplier Invoice Requests and we wanted to provide some clarity on the support that we need in order to process your request timely and efficiently. The definition of what is an invoice and what is not an invoice is an important distinction: an invoice is required when the entity is a business, a good or service has been provided and must be billed to GVSU or one of its entities (like WGVU). There likely won't be an invoice for Stipends, Grant Payouts, Athletic Guarantees, most honorariums.

[See the October 17, 2025 update for Supplier Invoice Request Guidance.](#)



**Laker Family  
Holiday Brunch**

BY GVSU ALUMNI RELATIONS

Ring in the holidays with your Laker Family. On December 6, bring your family and join Santa and Louie the Laker for pictures, cookie decorating, crafts, brunch and holiday cheer. Spots are filling up fast! RSVP today.

[RSVP for the brunch.](#)



**Grand Valley  
DETROIT SPORTS**

**DAYS**

BY GVSU ALUMNI RELATIONS

Cheer on the Red Wings & Pistons. Join fellow Lakers in Detroit for two epic games! Cheer on the Red Wings (January 3) and Pistons (January 25), snag exclusive co-branded merch, and enjoy special GVSU ticket discounts. Each ticket includes a donation to Grand Valley!

[Get your tickets!](#)





# CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

## FSA COMMUNITY READ – MEET THE AUTHOR

Author Visit & Book Discussion

**Date:** Thursday, November 20

**Time:** 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Intended Audience:**

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Faculty and staff only

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - All campus, students welcome!

**Location:** Alumni House, Valley Campus

**Event Details:** Join us for afternoon refreshments and conversation with the author!

[Faculty and Staff RSVP](#)

Meet Ursula Villarreal-Moura, author of *Like Happiness*. A native of San Antonio, Texas, Ursula Villarreal-Moura is the author of two works of fiction. Her debut novel *Like Happiness* is a finalist for The Rudolfo Anaya Fiction Award, longlisted for The Crook's Corner Book Prize, was selected as an Indie Next Pick and named a Best Book of 2024 by NPR, San Francisco Chronicle, ELLE, and Them. *Math for the Self-Crippling*, her flash fiction story collection, was a small press bestseller and has been taught at numerous universities. Her stories, essays, and interviews can be found in Lit Hub, Electric Literature, Story, Alta Journal, and The Rumpus, among others. She is a longtime advocate of reading diversely and of Land Back



## SAFETY TIPS – RESIDENCE HALL ACCESS

Sometimes pranksters or scammers may attempt to gain access to living spaces and buildings they do not belong in. They may do this by impersonating an authority figure or portraying themselves as someone they are not.

GVSU faculty and staff members who need to access a building have the keycards necessary to swipe themselves in. In the event GVSU employees may require access to a dorm room or other private residence space, they will identify themselves.

Housing and Residence Life staff and/or Facilities Services staff are most often responding to a request for assistance from you as a resident. If you or others living in your unit have not requested assistance, please ask for additional information from the person asking to come into your unit.

All GVSU staff members have IDs or nametags that verify their employment with the university. These forms of identification can be requested by community members when someone seeks access to their living center or room.

If you suspect someone who does not belong of attempting to gain access to your residence, do not allow them to enter. You have the right to verify their identity and reason for access. If you are not given verification or are unsure about an individual, contact GVPD at 616-331-3255. If you feel there is an immediate threat call 911.

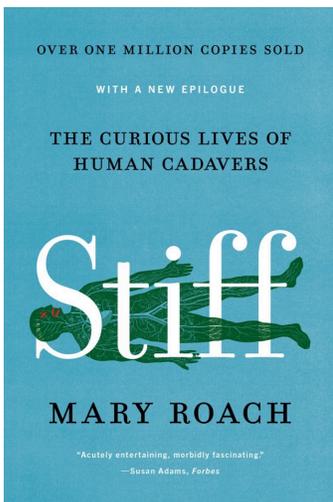
*Please share and reiterate this information with student employees or other students you encounter in the course of your employment!*



# HIGHLIGHTS



Lina Fire, KCON and Bob McVay, University Libraries, celebrated their son's first birthday on Friday, October 31! That looks like a delicious cake! Lina and Bob will also celebrate their anniversary on November 20. Congrats!!



**Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers by Mary Roach.** Recommended by Sue Dix, Financial Aid. "One would not think a book all about cadavers could be anything but morbid and gross, but this book is entertaining and informative and funny."



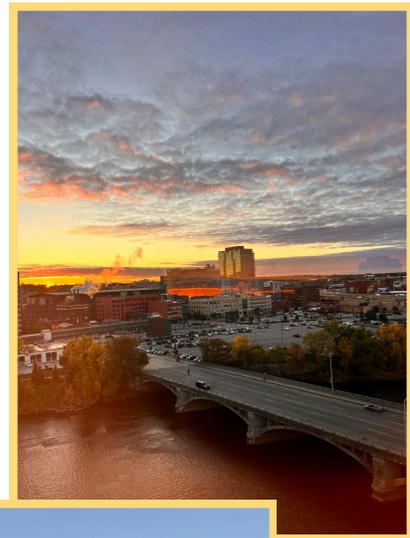
**The Future is Female - 2 volume anthology.** Recommended by Sue Dix, Financial Aid. "I have finished (loved) the first volume and have started the second and love it just as much. These are science fiction stories written by women, covering the 1920s through the 1970s. Some of the stories are eerily prescient. All of them will make you think."



# HIGHLIGHTS



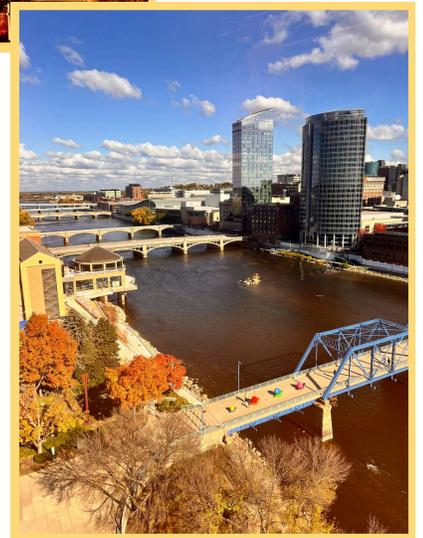
Photo by **Kate Knopp, Athletics**. "The moon, holiday lights, and sun setting was pretty!"



Photos by **Annie Valkema, Gift Processing Coordinator**. "Photos from the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of Eberhard on the City campus...one looking east and one west." (Including a full version of the cover photo!) AND another Eberhard photo!



Photo by **Anne Kamstra, Registrar's Office**. "This isn't from on campus, but very close-the Grand Ravines suspension bridge. I was needing to get the rest of my steps in for Walktober and stopped here on my way home. The colors were so pretty."



# CAMPUS Beauty





# HIGHLIGHTS



Photos by Kel Nemetz, CLAS Dean's Office. "We got some gorgeous sunrise light over MAK today and thought I'd share. Love seeing the Clock Tower lit up like that!"



Photos by Patty Kishman, University Libraries

**CAMPUS  
Beauty**





# HIGHLIGHTS

Diana Briggs, OST Academic Coordinator and Queen of Halloween, dressed in a different costume every day this Halloween week!



## MONDAY

Grand Valley Boo!



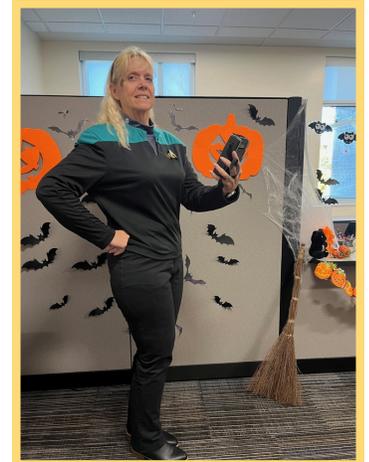
## TUESDAY

1960s Airline Flight Attendant



## WEDNESDAY

Norse God Freya



## THURSDAY

Star Trek Science Officer



## FRIDAY

OT-Rex (because I work in the Occupational Therapy dept!)



The Halloween spirit in the office extended to **Danielle Armstrong, Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders**, who dressed as Maid Marian!



You would not have forgotten it was Halloween if you walked into RFH 204 that week!





## 2025-2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD

### PRESIDENT

TAMI JOHN

### VICE-PRESIDENT

BRIAN DENUYL

### CHIEF ALLIANCE STEWARD

RHONDA LEMIEUX

### BUSINESS & FINANCE DIRECTOR

KATIE HAYNES

### COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

KELLI DYKSTRA

### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

RAYSHENA WILSON

### SECRETARY

MICHELLE HOLSTEGE

## BUILDING REPRESENTATIVES

### L DETTLING

MAK

### BARB ELLIS

KHS & LMP, STU 2ND & 3RD FLOORS

### CHERYL BRONNER

STU 1ST FLOOR

### KATE KNOPP

FH, MAN

### VICKI WENGER

LOH, NMH

### CHERYL KOTECKI

DEV 3RD-5TH FLOORS, SCB

### NICOLE BROWER

LIB

### RAYSHENA WILSON

DEP, DEV 1ST & 2ND FLOORS

### ASH GODIN

EC

### JENNA BENCH

CAC, KC

### IRINA GROUGAN

TC REGIONAL CENTER, BATTLE CREEK CENTER, MUSKEGON

### KATIE HAYNES

HHLC, HRY, PAD

### TRACY LONDON

CON, HON, JHZ, LMH

### DENISE GROSS

CHS, DCIH, RFH

### MARISA VREDEVOGD

ASH, AGS, LHH, LSH, PAC

### BRIAN DENUYL

AH, CUB, SER

### TREENA GILBERT

BIK, CEC, IDC, KEN, WAT

## CAMPUS DATES

2ND - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS  
4TH - ELECTION DAY  
11TH - VETERANS DAY  
20TH - TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE  
27<sup>TH</sup> - THANKSGIVING DAY  
26TH-28TH - THANKSGIVING RECESS (UNIVERSITY CLOSED)  
[GVSU.EDU/EVENTS](http://GVSU.EDU/EVENTS)

## BIRTHDAYS

5TH - LOLITA SALINDONG  
7TH - JO ANN BOON-SHELTON  
19TH - SUE VOGEL  
22DN - ERICKA ORDUÑA RIVERA  
22ND - RHONDA LEMIEUX  
28TH - TAMMY TOBAR

## GVSU ANNIVERSARY

3RD - CARRIE SHOUP  
6TH - AMANDA READER  
7TH - SUE VOGEL  
11TH - SHAWN EVANS  
14TH - RONDA HUSTER

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

5TH - GINA RICKERT  
20TH - LINA FIRE & BOB MCVAY



SHARE YOUR HOLIDAY TRADITIONS, RECIPES, AND FAVORITE GAMES TO PLAY WHEN YOU GET TOGETHER WITH FAMILY/FRIENDS FOR INCLUSION IN THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER!

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY. FOR SUBMISSION INFORMATION, CONTACT THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR.